

Application Serial No. ~~10/523,882~~ 10/523862
Reply to Office Action of May 31, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a framework having a ~~honeycomb structure with a plurality of compartments, the method comprising: the length of the framework from a first end to a second end thereof, with at least some of the compartments being closed at the first end or at the second end or at both ends of the framework, from a plurality of sheets of a flexible material, including the steps of:~~
 - providing a plurality of sheets arranged parallel to one another;
 - ~~joining adjacent sheets a first sheet to a second sheet along a plurality of join lines to form a first row~~ said plurality of compartments; and
 - ~~joining a third sheet to the second sheet along a plurality of join lines intermediate the join lines between the first and second sheets to form a second row of compartments;~~
 - ~~joining a fourth sheet to the third sheet along a plurality of join lines to form a third row of compartments, and so on to form the honeycomb structure; and~~
 - closing at least some of the plurality of compartments at at least one of
a the first end of the framework or at the and a second end of the framework
or at both ends of the framework.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of closing at least some of the compartments comprises closing some or all of the compartments at the first end of the framework.
3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the closing step comprises providing a skirt depending from an edge of each sheet at the first end of the framework, and joining the skirt of one sheet to another sheet at two adjacent sheets. ~~on the first sheet to the second sheet to close the first row of compartments,~~

Application Serial No. ~~10/523,802~~ **10/523862**
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PATENT
Docket: CU-4081

~~joining the skirt on the second sheet to the third sheet to close the second row of compartments and so on.~~

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the closing step comprises providing a skirt depending from an edge of each sheet at the first end of the framework, and joining the skirt skirts at two adjacent sheets, on the first sheet to the skirt on the second sheet to close the first row of compartments, joining the skirt on the third sheet to the skirt on the fourth sheet to close the third row of compartments, and so on.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of closing at least some of the compartments comprises closing all of the compartments at the first end of the framework.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the closing step comprises providing a skirt depending from an edge of the a first sheet and a skirt depending from an edge of the a last sheet at the first end of the framework, providing two skirts depending from an edge of every sheet intermediate the first and the last sheets at the first end of the framework, joining the skirts at two adjacent sheets. ~~skirt on the first sheet to an adjacent skirt on the second sheet to close the first row of compartments, joining adjacent skirts on the second and third sheets together to close the second row of compartments, joining adjacent skirts on the third and fourth sheets together to close the third row of compartments, and so on.~~

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein certain of the skirts are omitted or are not joined to another skirt or sheet so as to leave certain of the compartments open with others being closed.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the closing step is repeated at the second end of the framework.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method of joining the sheets together along join lines, as well as the method of closing at least

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Reply to Office Action of May 31, 2007

PATENT
Docket: CU-4081

some of the compartments at the first end of the framework or at the second end of the framework or at both ends of the framework may be any suitable method selected from the group consisting of heat or ultrasonic welding, sewing, and gluing.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the method of joining or closing is heat welding or ultrasonic welding.

11. (currently amended) A framework having a ~~honeycomb structure with a~~ plurality of compartments running the length of the framework from a first end to a second end with at least some of the compartments being closed at at least one of the first end ~~or at~~ and the second end ~~or both~~ of the framework, the framework being manufactured from a plurality of sheets of a flexible material arranged parallel to one another.

12. (currently amended) A method of ~~framework according to claim 11, which is used in the manufacture~~ manufacturing ~~[[of]]~~ a structure ~~selected from the group comprising mine supports, dam walls, storage packs, road supports, contamination barriers, artificial reef units, roof supports, vertical and horizontal pressure supports and contamination barriers comprising the steps of:~~
providing the framework of claim 11; and
filling said compartments with filler material through openings located in said compartments.

13. (previously presented) A framework manufactured by the method of claim 1.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)